



WATER AND CARS FACT SHEET



1. In 2004, 180 million gallons of used motor oil were sent to a landfill or poured down the storm drains by do-it-yourself mechanics.
2. One gallon of gasoline can contaminate 750,000 gallons of water.
3. On calm water, one pint of oil can spread out and cause an oil slick the size of two football fields. Think of what spilled oil can do to local water sources.
4. It takes 39,090 gallons of water to manufacture an automobile, tires included.
5. Roads and parking lots generate runoff of oil, radiator fluid, brake fluids and other chemicals that degrade our water sources.
6. Pavement for vehicles now covers over 60,000 square miles in the United States.
7. Exhaust from diesel-fueled vehicles is the primary source of lead in surface water.
8. When a car needs new brakes, metal filings fall on the street and can end up in our water supplies.
9. Rubber from skid marks on the street gets washed into storm drains and can find its way into our water supply.
10. Hand washing a car can take up to 143 gallons of water. The suds run into the storm sewer and contaminate streams and rivers. Many commercial car washes use about 35 gallons per car and recycle the water.
11. Although 75% of the Earth's surface is water, most of it is frozen or salty. Only about 1% is available for human use.
12. About 75% of your brain is water. You can use your "brain water" to keep your drinking water clean!



Source: National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems, <http://www.nps.gov>